

Downer  
Serial no. 10/045,796  
Filed 1/9/2002  
Attorney docket no. BEA920010041US1

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### REMARKS

#### Claims 1-19

Claim 1 is an independent claim, from which claims 2-19 ultimately depend. Claims 2-11 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but which would be allowable if rewritten in independent from including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2 and 7 specifically depend directly from claim 1. Applicant has amended claim 1 to at least substantially recite the limitations of claims 2 and 7 in the alternative, such that communicating among the plurality of building blocks comprises "at least one of" the limitations of claim 2, and the limitations of claim 7. Claims 2 and 7 have also been cancelled. Applicant submits that claim 1, and claims 3-6 and 8-19 that ultimately depend from claim 1, are now in allowable form.

#### Claims 20-30

Claim 20 is an independent claim, from which claims 21-30 ultimately depend. Claim 28 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but which would be allowable if rewritten in independent from including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 28 directly depends from claim 20. Applicant has amended claim 20 to at least substantially recite the limitations of claim 28, and has cancelled claim 28. Applicant submits that claim 20, and claims 21-27 and 29-30 that ultimately depend from claim 20, are now in allowable form.

#### Claims 31-32

Claim 31 is an independent claim, from which claim 32 depends. Applicant has amended claim 31 to recite at least substantially the same limitations of objected-to claim 28 that contains allowable subject matter, specifically "the partition protect indicator signifying that only other of

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the plurality of building blocks that have joined the partition of the building block may change the building-block-to-partition commit indicator of the building block." Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 31-32 are now in allowable form.

Conclusion

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the pending claims in condition for allowance, and request that they so be allowed. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' Attorney so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. For these reasons, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Date

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